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Letter to Thomas G. Clemson from H. Gourdin, 1871, March 18

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Recommended Citation

"Letter to Thomas G. Clemson from H. Gourdin, 1871, March 18" (1871). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 1165.

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Charleston March 18. 1871

My Dear Sir

I hardly know how to answer you in relation to Messrs Appleton's letter. I had a large number of the fresh volumes in my possession during the war which I held for Messrs Appleton & Co. which they requested should be returned here until they should order them to be sent to N York. They were in boxes, first as they were received from the printer, and were removed to my residence in Ashley Street at the commencement of the shelling of the city, and where I kept them at its evacuation. On my return they were gone, and I presume they were burned or destroyed in some way, for I have not seen a volume of them since which could hardly ~~not~~ have occurred if they were any of them floating about in the community. Possibly a few numbers might be sold in Charleston but not enough to warrant the expense of bringing them on. The Book will be valuable some day, I doubt at this time. Some of the most profound men of Europe have alluded to it as the ~~most~~ most able production that has come from any American Statesman or writer on the political institutions of the United States. You will note the sudden revolution that is taking ^{place} in Congress, and in the North in relation to the tariff. Every volume with in all branches of trade, its destructive influences are felt. Even the protectionists begin to realize this, and the triumph of the principles of free trade cannot fail. I think to ~~bring~~ make prominent again the name of its great champion, & I may say founder, and to give value to his writings. Prejudice & Malice are rife in the day, but truth is more enduring than the passions of men, and will in the end prevail. I will see Russell

and write you what he says.

The Bank of Charleston seems I think
you had better sell, for I see no probability of any early resumption
of its business. The People's Bank you may hold -

You will certainly not benefit yourself or the State if you
keep to yourself all knowledge the publicizer to which you
refer. If it is what you say of it, and can be sold & purchased
at a price not too high for the planter, you can, I am sure,
make an arrangement with the Stone Company that will
compensate you ^{for} its use. We are now making some additions
to our works, and as the use of your materials may involve
some changes, you had better let me hear from you at an early
day about it.

Yours Very Truly

J. Gordon

J. T. Gordon Esq
Pond Island.

March 16th 1877
J. T. Gordon

J. T. Gordon
March 16th 1877